

## Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

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FROM SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, GH

SUBJECT: SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL

REFERENCE: ACCRA 0522

1. GHANAIA TROUPE IN U.S. WOULD RECEIVE HOUSING, FOOD, INSURANCE AND DAILY STIPEND OF DOLS 5.00 EACH FOR CIGARETTES AND SMALL ITEMS. SMITHSONIAN WILL PAY INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL OF TROUPE, ACCRA-WASHINGTON AND RETURN. LENGTH OF STAY COVERED IN RINZLER LETTER TO NYANTE, JANUARY 17, 1975.

2. SMITHSONIAN HAS COMPLETED REVIEW REAGON'S FIELD WORK IN GHANA AND REAFFIRMS REQUEST FOR ENTIRE TROUPE SELECTED.

3. KAYPER-MENSAH ARRANGED REAGON'S ITINERARY FOR VIEWING TROUPES, AND TWO OF REAGON'S THREE SELECTIONS IN PERFORMING ARTS, DAGOMBA AND SALISU MAHAMA, WERE KAYPER-MENSAH UNCLASSIFIED

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SUGGESTIONS. REAGON RECALLS KAYPER-MENSAH AT THAT TIME

HAD NO OBJECTION TO WULOMEI CONTINGENT-WHICH WOULD BE 1/3 SIZE OF TROUPE REQUESTED LAST YEAR. SHE UNDERSTOOD A MORE BALANCED TROUPE WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO GHANAIAN GOVERNMENT.

4. REAGON'S GHANAIAN SELECTIONS DESIGNED TO MESH WITH BLACK AMERICAN FOLK GROUPS AND TROUPES FROM CARIBBEAN IN A LIVING MUSEUM PRESENTATION. JUST AS SMITHSONIAN'S NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART REQUESTS SPECIFIC PAINTINGS FOR AN EXHIBITION, SMITHSONIAN'S DIVISION OF PERFORMING ARTS REQUESTS SPECIFIC CULTURAL FORMS TO FIT INTO THIS LIVING EXHIBITION. TO REPLACE A TROUPE OR PART OF A TROUPE WITHOUT REFERRING TO THE ENTIRE PROGRAM WOULD BE MISLEADING AND DESTRUCTIVE TO THE CULTURAL MESSAGE OF THE EXHIBITION.

5. SMITHSONIAN HAS MADE MAJOR POLICY EXCEPTION IN GHANA'S CASE IN AGREEING TO PAY INTERNATIONAL AIR FARE OF ITS TROUPE. THAT DECISION BASED UPON BELIEF THAT A TROUPE WHICH FITS SMITHSONIAN'S CRITERIA COULD BE AGREED UPON BY BOTH PARTIES.

6. IS NYANTE'S RESISTANCE TO WULOMEI REALLY INSURMOUNTABLE? IF SO, REQUEST EMBASSY LIST SEVERAL TROUPES ACCEPTABLE TO MINISTRY AND NAMES OF MUSICIANS AND DANCERS IN TROUPE. IF THESE ARE TROUPES NOT SEEN BY REAGON, REQUEST AUDIO TAPES AND PHOTOS OF PERFORMANCES, DRESS. SMITHSONIAN WILL EVALUATE THIS RESPONSE, DETERMINE IF NEW TROUPES MEET PROGRAM CRITERIA AND COMPLEMENT OTHER PARTS AFRICAN DIASPORA PROGRAM. SMITHSONIAN WILLING TO DISCUSS GROUPS COMPARABLE TO WULOMEI BUT WILL NOT LOWER STANDARDS TO INSURE PARTICIPATION.

7. FYI - FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL DIRECTOR RINZLER, ACCOMPANIED BY REAGON AND OTHERS, MET WITH GHANA EMBASSY CULTURAL ATTACHE BROBEY WHO SAID HE HAS INFORMED MINISTRY OF HIS EMBASSY'S SUPPORT FOR SMITHSONIAN PROPOSAL. BROBEY PLANS FOLLOW UP WITH CABLE PROVIDING FURTHER INFO AND SAYS HE WILL TELEPHONE KAYPER-MENSAH. KISSINGER

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